

federal investigation of the marketing practices of the firearms industry. Specifically, my legislation, the Stop Taking Aim at Our Kids Study Bill, would require the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to work together to fully examine gun manufacturers' marketing efforts towards children.

As evidenced by the recent school shootings in Littleton, Jonesboro, and Springfield, children and firearms can produce a deadly combination. Gunshot wounds are the second leading cause of death among youngsters nationwide—second only to automobile accidents. Every year 4600 children are killed by gun fire, and each day 13 children are gunned down in America. That is the equivalent of one Columbine High School tragedy every day. Sadly, these numbers are rising.

To effectively combat this dramatic and disturbing rise in gun violence among our children, we must first understand the factors contributing to our culture of violence. We must examine the role the media and the entertainment industry play in glamorizing gun violence, we must analyze the availability of guns to children, we must evaluate the role parents play in teaching their children about gun safety, and we must investigate the firearms industry's targeting of children.

My legislation would take the important first step of combating youth violence by directing the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commissioner to look at the marketing practices of gun manufacturers towards children. While some firearms manufacturers have worked responsibly with their customers to educate them about the importance of using guns safely when near young children, others have unscrupulously identified young children as an important consumer group and targeted them with little thought to the social consequences of their actions. Advertisements for children's guns which herald the importance of "Starting 'em young" and encourage kids to buy guns that "will make them stand out in a crowd" need to be closely examined.

This legislation is not a panacea. I do not pretend that this bill will solve our nation's problems of youth gun violence. It will, however, begin an important dialogue about firearms manufacturers' and marketers' contribution to the high incidence of gun violence and gun death among our nation's children. By identifying those who carelessly target our children for profit, my bill will hold the firearms industry responsible for its actions. I hope that the House will act swiftly to adopt this important bill.

HONORING VFW POST #582

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. One hundred years ago, when the United States Army came back from the war in the Philippines, the survivors formed the Veterans of Foreign Wars. On June 12, VFW Post #582, located in Ortonville, Michigan, will join the celebration of preserving democracy by dedicating a stone monument to honor the many men and women who gave much to protect freedom.

Throughout Ortonville, as well as Oakland County, the members of VFW Post #582 are known as staunch community leaders. Year after year they provide a tremendous public service by organizing community blood drives, as well as food drives for the homeless and underprivileged. Post members have frequently contributed their time at various area hospitals, and have also provided a support network for each other, relying on each other as friends, colleagues, and fellow soldiers for support and advice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today, asking you and my colleagues in the 106th Congress to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and VFW Post #582. For an entire century, they have stood firmly to their commitment to this nation. Their dedication to protecting and promoting the enhancement of human dignity of all Americans serves as inspiration to the entire country.

HONORING CONCHA HERNANDEZ
GREENE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Concha Hernandez Greene, who recently received the Public Health Champion award. Ms. Greene is one of 13 Californians honored for spearheading local efforts to improve population health.

Ms. Greene has been extremely active in the Oceanside community. She has acted as a liaison to the Oceanside police department as well as implementing a community policing service that encourages residents to make their neighborhoods safer. Furthermore, Ms. Greene serves as the chairperson of Eastside United Community Action. This community group is a grassroots organization that provides a variety of language classes and health services such as nutrition, tuberculosis, and diabetes checks.

Ms. Greene has dedicated her life to the health and improvement of our community and her tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. Her work epitomizes the values of good citizenship and her accomplishments are reflected in the enhanced quality of life in Oceanside, California.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Greene on receiving the Public Health Champion award, and thank her for her selfless efforts.

A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
TRIBUTE TO FRANK HIDALGO

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly bring tribute to a fellow Arizonan and someone I am proud to call my friend, Mr. Frank Hidalgo. I am calling your attention to Frank's accomplishments in light of an award he recently received from Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., (CPLC), a well-respected

nonprofit organization in Arizona that has long advocated for the Latino community. Frank was recently presented with CPLC's Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong dedication to promoting higher education in the Hispanic and Chicano community.

The 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award was established to honor an extraordinary individual who has dedicated his/her life to serving the Latino community. This award not only recognizes the personal and professional accomplishments of the individual, but also their altruistic contributions to the advancement of the Hispanic and Chicano community.

Frank, a native Arizonan, began his career as a junior high school teacher, and later served as the Director of the Phoenix Job Corps. In 1984, Frank was hired by Arizona State University (ASU) to serve as Director of Community Relations. Under his direction, Frank has been responsible for coordinating the ASU Hispanic Convocation, an inspirational graduation ceremony for Hispanics. Each year an estimated 300 graduates take part in each Spring and Fall ceremony and over 3,000 proud family members and friends are in attendance. This year marked the 16th anniversary of the ASU Hispanic Convocation. It has become one of the Valley's most significant and motivating ceremonies involving Latinos, recognizing both individual scholastic achievement and the collective progress of the Latino community in higher education. The television broadcast of the ceremony on the local Univision and PBS stations has become a traditional viewing event for Latino families hoping to encourage young people to pursue higher education.

Frank also administers the ASU Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Institute. This program brings Arizona Hispanic high school students to the ASU campus for a week of intensive leadership training by respected community and university leaders. The program teaches valuable leadership skills that students can use to improve their communities, as well as gives them the opportunity to learn about the importance of higher education. Since 1995, more than 200 students have participated in this exceptional leadership program.

In addition to the tremendous work Frank does for youth, he serves on a number of boards and committees such as the Rio Salado Committee, CPLC Board of Directors, the City of Phoenix Police Department Advisory Board Committee, the KPNX Channel 12 Minority Advisory Committee, the National Community for Latino Leadership and the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Hidalgo is an exemplary leader and a profoundly committed individual who is a true role model for the nation. He has dedicated more than forty years to the advancement of higher education for Hispanic youth. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to honor Frank Hidalgo and his four decades of contributions to Arizona.

TOM AND IRENE WOOD CELEBRATE THEIR 68TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize two citizens